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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 55/17 of 7 November 2000 and outlines measures taken to implement the resolution. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In addition to regular liaison activities between the Department and the CARICOM secretariat, many parts of the United Nations system collaborate extensively and regularly exchange information with CARICOM and its constituent parts. The report contains details on some of these linkages.

* A/57/150.

** The present report was delayed by late contributions from some agencies and the adaptation of lengthy submissions.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/17 of 7 December 2000, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community", by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it a report on the implementation of the resolution at its fifty-seventh session.

II. Consultations and exchange of information

2. At the invitation of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United Nations was represented by the Chief of the Caribbean Division of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the twenty-second Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in the Bahamas in July 2001. The UNDP Resident Representative in Guyana represented the United Nations at the twenty-third Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Guyana in July 2002.

3. Consultations on the holding of the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of CARICOM and its associated institutions have been initiated and are ongoing between the two secretariats.

III. Information received from the United Nations system

4. In response to a request by the Department of Political Affairs, heads of agencies, programmes, departments and offices of the United Nations system supplied the information summarized below.

A. United Nations Secretariat

Department of Political Affairs

5. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations and coordinated the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/17. In carrying out its mandate, the Department maintains close contact with the CARICOM secretariat, permanent representatives of States members of CARICOM and the permanent observer of CARICOM to the United Nations.

6. In May 2002, the Department organized the second working-level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations on cooperation for conflict prevention and peace-building. The permanent observer of CARICOM to the United Nations participated in the meeting and in consultations between the United Nations, the Organization of American States (OAS) and CARICOM.

7. A representative of the Department followed the proceedings and deliberations of the twenty-third Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Georgetown in July 2002, and consulted the Assistant Secretary-General of CARICOM for Foreign and Community Relations on the holding of the third general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of CARICOM and its associated institutions.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

8. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs cooperates with CARICOM, particularly through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), with which it exchanges information on early warning, especially during the hurricane season, and on coordination of relief operations and mobilization of international assistance. In April 2002, the Office organized a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination refresher course for Caribbean and Latin American members of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination system in the Dominican Republic. CDERA was represented at the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group regional meeting for the Americas organized by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the United States of America, in May 2002. CDERA prepared an analysis on the status of disaster risk management in the Caribbean as part of the global review of disaster reduction conducted by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Both CDERA and the Office cooperated in raising public awareness for improved disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

9. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs assisted CARICOM in building national capacity for the implementation and follow-up of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action for Social Development. Its Division for Social Policy Development convened a regional workshop on the implementation and follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2001. An assessment was made of policies, programmes and projects aimed at reducing poverty and unemployment and promoting social inclusion. Working groups evaluated the social sector capacity for data collection and analysis to formulate and implement socio-economic policy and programmes.

10. The Department and the Caribbean Centre for Research and Development, in cooperation with the Government of Italy, supported the Third Caribbean Ministerial Consultation and High-Level Workshop on Capacity-Building in Public Administration and Governance, held in Jamaica in December 2001. Participants discussed the application of information and communication technologies aimed at improving both internal government operations and the delivery of services by Governments to members of the society.

11. The Department's Statistical Division provided technical support to the CARICOM secretariat within the framework of a project on strengthening capacity in the compilation of statistics and indicators for conference follow-up in the CARICOM region, focusing on information technology, environment and social and gender statistics. Activities included in-country training in word processing, spreadsheet and database programs, regional training workshops and the compilation of statistics and indicators on key environmental and social concerns. Two regional publications, one on social and gender statistics, the other on environmental statistics, are expected later in 2002. Efforts were made to ensure the sustainability of the project activities and goals by establishing an Advisory Group, comprising seven heads of national statistics offices from within CARICOM, representatives of its secretariat and the Division.

Department of Public Information

12. The Department of Public Information produced 12 Caribbean-related spots in its *United Nations in Action/CNN World Report* television series on women, poverty alleviation, children, corruption, environment, health, economic development, indigenous people and HIV/AIDS. Seven *World Chronicle* productions covered issues related to cultural heritage, population, shelter, ageing, human development and HIV/AIDS.

13. United Nations Radio covered CARICOM issues and events in its daily news broadcasts and current affairs magazines, applying a wide range of news in English, Dutch and French-Creole. Several programme segments on terrorism were broadcasted, including a discussion on the effects of terrorism on the region and the CARICOM contribution to fighting against it. Interviews were conducted with CARICOM officials and experts, including its Secretary-General, on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, the Caribbean Court of Justice, the global economy, the effects of globalization on small island States, drugs and small arms trafficking and a regional strategic plan to fight HIV/AIDS. Political developments in Haiti were followed closely. Daily and weekly radio programmes covered gatherings and events relevant to CARICOM concerns. Some features covered issues related to international and regional trade, offshore banking, money-laundering, the environment and climate change.

14. The Caribbean Radio Unit developed a close working relationship with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme in Barbados, featuring the structure and work of its office in the Caribbean. Cooperating closely with the CARICOM secretariat and the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, the Unit covered extensively the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in June 2001. The December 2000-February 2001 issue of the *United Nations Chronicle* published an interview with Wendy Fitzwilliams of Trinidad and Tobago, Goodwill Ambassador of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

15. In June 2001, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the United Nations information centre in Port of Spain and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute organized a conference on the role of the media in development. In August 2001, as part of its promotional activities in the lead-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the information centre invited the CARICOM Assistant Secretary-

General for Human and Social Development to address related issues under its Distinguished Lecture Series.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

16. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and CARICOM strengthened their cooperation in the areas of sustainable development, social affairs, the processing of census data and science and technology. ECLAC offered its facilities in Santiago, Mexico City and Port of Spain as venues for joint training of staff from the United Nations, CARICOM and OAS in promotion of a more substantive cooperation in early warning and conflict prevention.

17. *Sustainable development.* The cooperation between the ECLAC and CARICOM secretariats will be strengthened in the follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa, in August 2002. They will continue to act jointly in the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international levels. They continue to collaborate on the Caribbean initiative calling for international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development. ECLAC took the initiative in the execution of the technical work required to advance the initiative. Both secretariats are collaborating with the Association of Caribbean States on a strategy for the further development and promotion of the initiative.

18. ECLAC worked with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute and the Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change in the preparation of a paper on climate change and food security in the Caribbean, and with the Caribbean Energy Information Systems on the development of a regional renewable energy project. ECLAC also cooperated with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, and the Alliance of Small Island States.

19. *Social affairs/statistics and census preparation.* ECLAC participated in and provided logistical and substantive support to the CARICOM Gender Mainstreaming Task Force, including the ministerial round table on gender and development, held in Guyana in October 2001. It is regularly represented at CARICOM sectoral meetings of its Council on Human and Social Development, the Social Policy Futures Group, and at the Gender and Social Statistics meetings. On occasion, presentations were made to train Caribbean statisticians. ECLAC also participated in the CARICOM Inter-Agency Collaborative Meeting on Youth, whereas CARICOM was invited to the Advisory Panel of the ECLAC Social Statistical Databases Project. ECLAC cooperated with CARICOM in the 2000/2001 population and household censuses. Several national consultations were carried out in preparation of the analysis of the survey data. CARICOM countries received training in the use of Redatam software, developed by ECLAC to facilitate the census activities.

20. *Science and technology.* During 2000 and 2001, a 20-minute video, aimed at the local scientific community and media practitioners, was produced on small and medium-sized enterprise development in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), covering, inter alia, the role of technology and the media in the popularization of science and technology, and local and regional scientific issues. ECLAC worked with the CARICOM secretariat on the technological dimensions of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy with emphasis on the Standards and Quality Assurance Programmes. ECLAC hosted and provided substantive inputs to the CARICOM round table on a vision for the Caribbean in the new decade, in September 2001.

21. ECLAC continued with the preparation of studies, briefs and related forms of assistance at the request of CARICOM. Information notes were prepared for the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development held in Mexico, in March 2002, and for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in South Africa, in August 2002. ECLAC and CARICOM work together in the inter-secretariat meetings convened by the Association of Caribbean States. Both are founding observers and jointly support and promote the Association's activities.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

22. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) secretariat is particularly active in OECS countries. It implements projects

related to customs modernization and reform and developed the modernized computerized customs management system, ASYCUDA ++, which will progressively replace an older version. As of May 2001, UNCTAD seconded a customs expert to work in the Caribbean to coordinate and facilitate the transfer of the older systems to the new ASYCUDA ++.

23. UNCTAD actively supported the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. Technical cooperation was granted to Haiti to prepare the country for membership in the CARICOM free trade zone. Saint Lucia was granted technical assistance in manufacturing and the offshore financial sector. UNCTAD completed a study on business costs as elements of the investment climate in OECS countries and Barbados.

D. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

24. Cooperation between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and CARICOM in the areas of drug control and crime prevention, including anti-money-laundering continued to develop in 2001 and 2002. In 2001, UNDCP assisted Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica and OECS countries in anti-money-laundering activities and dispatched to some of them mentors of its Global Programme against Money Laundering. The experts assisted in developing a prosecution capability or, in the case of Barbados, helped to establish its Anti-Money-Laundering Authority. In cooperation with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force and the Caribbean Development Bank, UNDCP produced a feasibility study on establishing a regional Financial Intelligence Unit for OECS. It initiated the deployment of a mentor to assist Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the development of their own units.

25. CARICOM participates in the meetings on drug control organized by the Regional Office for the Caribbean and in the Youth Theme Group, co-chaired by UNDCP. In turn, UNDCP participates in various CARICOM meetings and forums related to drug control, youth development, sports and health and family life education. A High-Level Meeting on Drugs and Crime, held in Trinidad and Tobago in December 2001, assessed the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation. A number of priority elements for the fight against drugs and crime evolved, leading to a request that the CARICOM Task Force on Crime and Security formulate a new regional strategy. While the Meeting recognized notable achievements in the implementation of the Plan of Action, it stressed that illegal drugs and other serious crimes remained a serious threat. The Task Force, with UNDCP assistance, prepared a report and strategic recommendations to the twenty-third Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.

26. UNDCP assisted the CARICOM Regional Coordination Mechanism through staff training and other support to improve the coordination of drug control activities from within the CARICOM secretariat. Cooperation intensified with the UNDCP Centre for International Crime Prevention, especially in the form of pre-ratification assistance related to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. The Centre provided extensive information to Ministers of Justice and Attorneys General of CARICOM in Guyana, in January 2001. Subsequently, some Caribbean States signed the Convention. Several others considerably advanced their ratification process bringing to eight the number of CARICOM signatories.

27. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/188 of 20 December 2000, on preventing and combating corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds and repatriation of such funds to the countries of origin, the Secretary-General requested information from Member States on progress made in the implementation of that resolution. Two member States of CARICOM replied. A number of Caribbean States responded to surveys of the Centre for International Crime Prevention on the implementation of the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/21.

E. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

28. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) intensified its cooperation with a wide range of partners, including CARICOM, under

the framework of the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS. The Partnership was launched by CARICOM in Barbados, in February 2001. The close cooperation between UNAIDS and CARICOM moved HIV/AIDS to the centre of national decision-making in the Caribbean. The Executive Director of UNAIDS participated in the first annual meeting of the Pan-Caribbean Partnership, held in Saint Lucia, in November 2001, and in the sixth meeting of the CARICOM Council for Human and Social Development, held in Guyana, in April 2002.

29. UNAIDS, the CARICOM secretariat and the European Commission cooperated in the development of the Partnership through a range of consultations, efforts of political mobilization, stocktaking, coordinating and capacity-building, starting from a review of the HIV/AIDS situation in the Caribbean. A multipartner Task Force on HIV/AIDS, chaired by CARICOM, was established, which developed a comprehensive Caribbean Regional Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS. The Plan was endorsed by Ministers of Health and recognized as an urgent development priority by the World Bank-led Caribbean Group on Cooperation in Economic Development. CARICOM Governments committed themselves to increasing the level of resources to address the epidemic with the support of the international community, and endorsed the establishment of the Partnership.

30. The Partnership operates with the full participation of all Caribbean countries and the support of all UNAIDS co-sponsors and bilateral donors, and in cooperation with regional actors, such as the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, the Caribbean Health Research Council, the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, the Caribbean Development Bank and other regional partners. Thus far, the Partnership has generated a high level of political mobilization, broadened the involvement of key stakeholders and demonstrated its impact by increasing the financial resources available to the region, both from new and traditional donors and institutions, including the private sector. Progress has been made in key areas, including institutional capacity-building and the accelerated access to care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2000-2001, the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund promoted HIV/AIDS national and regional catalytic projects for the Caribbean in the amount of US $3 million. Following the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, Caribbean Heads of Government met in the Bahamas, in July 2001, and incorporated the goals and targets of the session's Declaration of Commitment into their regional priorities. The Caribbean Regional Strategic Plan of Action was revised to include the millennium goals and the Declaration of Commitment, articulated as part of the "Nassau Declaration".

31. In June 2001, the World Bank approved a $155 million HIV/AIDS prevention and control lending programme for the Caribbean. The first loans were confirmed for the Dominican Republic, Barbados and Jamaica, while others, including for Grenada, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Guyana are under preparation. Barbados was the first country in which the World Bank agreed to finance procurement of antiretroviral medicines. UNAIDS provided crucial support to the preparation and launching of national plans of action for access to care and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS, and to negotiations with pharmaceutical companies, resulting in important drug price reductions. Based on the national benchmarks and pioneering regional approaches to HIV, it supported CARICOM in negotiations for a Caribbean Accelerating Access Initiative. UNAIDS will participate in developing and refining policy guidance to help Governments tackle difficult issues concerning the allocation of national resources for HIV care and equitable access to affordable HIV medicines.

32. The consolidation of the Partnership presents important challenges to UNAIDS, its co-sponsors, and a coordinated United Nations response. There is an urgent need for capacity-building in cross-sectoral programme management and the expansion of the range of actors engaged in multisectoral responses to HIV/AIDS. Considerable underfunding persists: while international spending based on UNAIDS mapping of ongoing programmes barely reaches $20 million, a resource gap study done by the University of the West Indies, the World Bank and UNAIDS established the estimated annual cost of essential prevention and basic care needs for the Caribbean at $260 million. The United Nations has a critical role to play in brokering partnerships, leveraging resources and building capacity for a scaled-up response to HIV/AIDS in the region.

F. United Nations Development Programme

33. UNDP provided support to CARICOM through projects, particularly the Single Market Economy and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, and organizational assistance for regional meetings and global conferences in 2001 and 2002.

34. *CARICOM Single Market Economy and Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre.* UNDP continued to support CARICOM in deepening the economic integration process. Resources were used in the revision of the Treaty of Chaguaramas and the preparation of nine individual protocols. UNDP financed the preparation of studies focusing on the removal of national restrictions that impede their implementation. In November 2001, UNDP helped to establish the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre, following a decision by the CARICOM Council of Ministers of Finance and Planning in 1999. The project benefits CARICOM, the Dominican Republic and English-speaking territories of the region, which contribute to the operating budget of the Centre.

35. *Regional Consultation on Financing for Development, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, December 2001.* At the request of CARICOM and in cooperation with its secretariat, UNDP organized the Consultation to assist member States in the formulation of regional strategies and policy positions related to agenda items of the final meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference on Financing for Development in Mexico, in March 2002. The Consultation addressed themes directly relevant to Caribbean concerns, such as globalization, partnerships and small vulnerable economies, trade and investment financing, international tax cooperation, resource flows, debt sustainability and official development assistance, microenterprises, poverty eradication and human resources development, and the strategic repositioning of the Caribbean economies. It was important for CARICOM to develop a broader understanding of the complex nature of financing for development, harmonize their varying perceptions and arrive at decisions on broad strategies.

36. *Caribbean Regional Summit on Tourism, Bahamas, December 2001.* UNDP assisted CARICOM, under a project of the World Tourism Organization, in the preparation of a "Study of critical issues affecting the regional air transport sub-sector". The recommendations of the study, especially related to airlift capacity and incentives for the further development of tourism, were instrumental for the Summit's deliberations, resulting in the decision to formulate a Caribbean Tourism Strategic Plan. UNDP will further assist CARICOM in mapping the Plan's implementation and launching it with major public, private and civil society stakeholders.

37. *Meetings and seminar on a regional information and communication technology policy and strategy, Antigua and Barbuda, May 2002.* UNDP is supporting CARICOM, under a project funded by the Japan year 2000 technical assistance programme, in the preparation of a regional policy and strategy for information and communication technology application for development. The project provides funding for encounters between senior government officials, academics, the private sector, civil society, and regional and international development partners, where the establishment of broad guidelines and a framework for promoting and harmonizing information and communication technology adoption and use for development was discussed. The results were submitted at the twenty-third meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM held in Guyana in June 2002. UNDP remains committed to assisting in conducting e-readiness assessments, formulating national information and communication technology policies, strategies, legislative frameworks and implementation plans, and in capacity-building for individual CARICOM countries.

38. *Caribbean Regional Seminar on the Use of Information Technology in Comprehensive Disaster Management, Jamaica, May 2002.* UNDP organized the Seminar pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/96 I of 22 December 1999 on emergency assistance to Caribbean countries affected by hurricanes Jose and Lenny, in order to support Caribbean States and territories in building national and regional capacity in disaster preparedness and management, strengthening the information technology capacities and skills of participants and identifying elements of a wider application strategy in comprehensive disaster management. Participants identified the meteorological services; telecommunications, particularly emergency telecommunications; maritime and aviation safety systems; and disaster preparedness and management operations as areas where the use of information

technology needed to be enhanced. UNDP is committed to the effective implementation of the recommendations that resulted from the Seminar.

39. *Caribbean Court of Justice*. UNDP supports the establishment of the Court through funding from the Japan Human Resources Trust Fund. The project, jointly formulated with CARICOM, provides for judicial training and access to information for Court officials, for the development of operational and information management systems, and for support to the Judicial and Legal Services Commission. It aims at increasing awareness and sensitivity of national judicial establishments to the role, functions and procedures of the Court. The project's implementation is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2002.

40. *World Summit for Sustainable Development, South Africa, August 2002*. UNDP supported CARICOM in the mobilization of input from non-governmental organizations into the CARICOM preparation for the Summit through the work of a regional consultant. It provided important input to the CARICOM Civil Society Encounter: Forward Together of July 2002. UNDP, principally under its Capacity 21 Programme/Trust Fund, supported Caribbean countries in the preparation of national assessments on the progress made and obstacles experienced in the implementation of sustainable development, especially Agenda 21. It held a regional workshop in Barbados, in December 2001, which contributed to the identification of critical issues at the national, regional and global levels that need further support to create a more favourable environment conducive to sustainable development, and led to the development of comprehensive national work programmes towards the Summit. UNDP organized a Global Round Table in Jamaica, in May 2002, to examine the vulnerability of small island developing States and to explore mechanisms for partnerships. A major outcome of the round table was the identification and formulation of "type-two activities", focusing on building the capacities of States to help reduce and overcome their economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities, and enhance resilience to resist and recover from externally imposed economic, social and environmental shocks.

G. World Food Programme

41. The World Food Programme (WFP) cooperates with several CARICOM States in development projects, emergency preparedness and operations. Assisting over 200,000 beneficiaries in Haiti, WFP engaged in development activities related to health and nutrition, school feeding and food production. In 2001, WFP assisted over 4,000 victims of hurricane Iris in Belize. As part of its emergency preparedness, planning and response, WFP established logistical capacity assessments in Belize, Haiti and Jamaica. They contain key information needed to facilitate an efficient emergency response. In 2002, such assessments are planned for Grenada, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

H. United Nations Human Settlements Programme

42. CARICOM has committed itself to supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Campaigns on Secure Tenure and Better Urban Governance coordinated by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). A project document is under consideration as a platform for future cooperation between CARICOM and UN-Habitat

I. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

43. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) cooperates closely with CARICOM in the implementation of its regional strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean. In November 2001, the Office appointed a Regional Representative, based at ECLAC headquarters and responsible for enhancing the cooperation with regional institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. In December 2001, experts participated in a brainstorming meeting on the Office's regional strategy in order to identify the main human rights concerns, define priorities for action, taking into account the Quito Framework for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, and propose the most effective manner to strengthen cooperation with regional institutions and other strategic partners, including civil society.

44. The experts strongly recommended that OHCHR take into account the different regional realities, which call for particular emphasis on specificities, particularly in English-speaking Caribbean countries, and devise specific cooperation programmes for them. They recommended that OHCHR work in partnership with regional and subregional organizations, including CARICOM. Subsequently, OHCHR organized a consultation with English-speaking Caribbean countries in Barbados, in May 2002, in which the CARICOM secretariat participated as a main partner. The consultation allowed insight on the human rights situation in English-speaking Caribbean countries, the identification of partners and programmes, and the needs involved in, and obstacles to, promoting and protecting human rights. OHCHR will define, within its regional strategy, a specific approach for the English-speaking Caribbean in a common framework with its partners, to enhance effectiveness in the promotion and protection of human rights. It is considering a cooperation framework with CARICOM.

J. United Nations University

45. The United Nations University carried out research and capacity development activities in and with CARICOM member States.

K. International Labour Organization

46. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and CARICOM coordinate policies on labour issues, in particular the labour market, within the framework of the CARICOM Single Market Economy and the related free movement of labour. As a rule, CARICOM organizes meetings of labour officials at subregional meetings organized or funded by ILO. Reports of those meetings are made available to CARICOM ministerial meetings of its Council on Human and Social Development, to which ILO is invited. CARICOM ensures coordination on other issues of relevance to ILO, including its representation on the ILO Governing Body, Caribbean policy positions and the selection of lead countries on particular issues on the agenda of the International Labour Conference.

47. ILO intensified its collaboration with CARICOM on labour aspects of hemispheric integration, particularly in the preparation for and follow-up on the Conference of Labour Ministers of the Organization of American States, held in Canada, in October 2001. CARICOM coordinated the development of regional policy positions for the Conference's Declaration, while ILO provided technical input and studies on labour issues in the Caribbean. ILO funded the participation of Caribbean delegates in the preparatory meetings and provided technical input. The CARICOM secretariat participates in most subregional ILO meetings. Both organizations keep each other informed of their activities through regular exchanges of information. CARICOM receives publications produced by the ILO Caribbean Office.

48. ILO is an active member of the CARICOM Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS and assisted in the preparation of a proposal to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. CARICOM participates in the Project Advisory Committee of the Caribbean Labour Market Information Systems. ILO-CARICOM cooperation will intensify on the free movement of labour, particularly by assisting in the development of common occupational standards and systems for the recognition of qualifications, creating a subregional labour market information system, and by addressing the rights of migrant workers and their families within CARICOM. Agreement has already been reached on a joint meeting and research cooperation related to the latter issue.

L. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

49. During 2001 and 2002, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) remained focused on improving food security and poverty eradication, environmental and natural resources management, disaster management and mitigation and sector policy and planning in relation to meeting the challenges of trade liberalization and globalization. FAO continues to implement 70 national and 13 regional projects in CARICOM States, with a total budget of $23.6 million. Thirty-four of these projects were approved during the period under review. Key regional projects include the preparation of Special Programme for Food Security of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM), and the programme for the eradication of Amblyomma tick in cattle. Out of a total of 10 participating Caribbean countries, 4 were

declared tick-free, and 2 more are expected to join them by the end of 2002.

50. FAO provided technical assistance for agricultural development, and supported the implementation of the CARICOM Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture. It includes sponsorship and support for meetings, workshops and training sessions for Caribbean States in the fields of fisheries, forestry, statistics, extension, agricultural diversification, marketing, plant protection, programme management, nutrition, commodity standards and geographic information systems. It also included support and facilitation efforts in regional commissions and working groups, including the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission and the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission. FAO assisted in the preparation of projects and subsector analyses, and provided related advice to Governments. It participated in the Committee of Lead Agencies responsible for the implementation of the Regional Transformation Programme, and in a number of subject-specific meetings of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, and the CARICOM Council for Trade and Development. FAO staff provided training on the implementation of arrangements of the World Trade Organization.

M. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

51. *Education.* The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continues to cooperate with CARICOM in the Education for All initiative. It resulted in a regional assessment on education and a Caribbean Plan of Action for the initiative endorsed by Ministers of Education and stakeholders for the period 2000-2015. The UNESCO Caribbean Office is the lead agency for facilitating regional initiatives related to the Plan of Action. CARICOM, through its Human Resource Development Unit, was closely involved in all activities. The Unit is a member of the monitoring team for both national and regional Education for All initiatives and represented the Caribbean in the Education for All High-Level Group meeting held in Paris in October 2001. Currently, UNESCO supports the development of national Education for All plans of action in some Caribbean countries to meet the "Dakar 2000" goals. A regional workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago helped to build the capacity of education ministries in developing such plans. The CARICOM secretariat participated in the workshop, as did OECS.

52. *Culture.* In 2000, CARICOM and UNESCO started a developmental programme, entitled "Focus on the Caribbean", within which a number of projects were realized that highlighted the history and culture of the Caribbean region. A travelling exhibition, entitled "Caribbean people: tapestry of the past — fabric of the future" was displayed. Other projects related to the popularization of science and technology, disaster preparedness, the strengthening of tertiary level education institutions and networks, the establishment of multimedia community communication and information centres, the promotion of cultural industries, the promotion of a culture of peace (changing the culture of classrooms), HIV/AIDS prevention through culture and communication, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the removal of language barriers. Implementation of the programme will be completed at the end of 2002.

53. The UNESCO Adviser for Culture in the Caribbean is a member of the Advisory Board and the Regional Cultural Committee of the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA), both of which are initiatives of CARICOM aimed at promoting and advising on cultural activities within the region. The next CARIFESTA will be held in Suriname in 2003.

54. *Communication.* The UNESCO Regional Adviser for Communication in the Caribbean, located in Jamaica, closely cooperated with the CARICOM Communication and Information Unit, largely on a consultative basis, and on regional projects in journalism and broadcasting. The project entitled "Introduction of UNESCO Chair", aimed at transforming the Centre for Communication Studies at the University of Guyana into a "centre of excellence" through technology and programme delivery upgrades, received the support of CARICOM. UNESCO participated in the seminar on a regional information and communication policy and strategy held in Antigua and Barbuda (see para. 37). It endorses and is actively involved in information and communication technology development initiatives, particularly in the context of promoting universal access to "information for all".

55. *Intersectoral agenda for youth development.* CARICOM initiated the review of regional priorities for youth development to provide a perspective on challenges facing key stakeholders seeking to respond adequately to the crisis of Caribbean youth. The initiative seeks to improve the synergy of youth-related programmes, thus reducing their duplication, enhancing the rationalization of scarce technical and financial resources, making significant strides towards the development of an intersectoral agenda for youth development and fostering systematic participation of stakeholders in regional policy and programme development. Recently, the UNESCO Caribbean Office participated in a CARICOM meeting on the initiative in Barbados. The Office focuses on youth empowerment to ensure and enhance their full and equal participation in society. UNESCO will continue to support the CARICOM initiative, especially in HIV/AIDS education and prevention.

N. International Civil Aviation Organization

56. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) cooperates with CARICOM in the technical field. With its "TRAINAIR Assistance for Civil Aviation" project, it supports the upgrade of the Barbados School of Air Traffic Services to the standard of being a full TRAINAIR member, capable of conducting effective and cost-efficient training programmes to meet the technological and operational requirements of modern civil aviation. ICAO and OAS agreed to implement two projects in the Caribbean: one to strengthen the Subregional Flight Safety Surveillance Authority and the Aviation Security Authority in the Caribbean Community, assist its activities and regulate and control the application of airworthiness and operation standards by the air transport operators registered in the region; the other to provide technical support for training programmes in human resources development in civil aviation. It will help to improve professional capabilities and skills for a more effective and efficient regional air transport sector.

57. ICAO participated in the Tenth Meeting of Technical Directors of Civil Aviation held in Jamaica, in February 2002. ICAO informed the Meeting that a memorandum of understanding on technical cooperation had been signed with OAS to assist Caribbean States and Territories in the creation of a regional safety oversight authority. ICAO continues to provide technical and budgetary assistance, consultants, and other support through its Technical Cooperation Bureau to improve the civil aviation capabilities of its States and Territories.

O. International Maritime Organization

58. CARICOM and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are working together in the identification and implementation of joint cooperation activities, specifically related to maritime transport. Significant progress has been registered with respect to the IMO/UNDP project for strengthening effective maritime administration in the Caribbean. Launched in 2000, the project is scheduled for completion in 2003. An IMO Regional Maritime Adviser was appointed to promote capacity-building in maritime administration, through an assessment of existing capacities and limitations, followed by the preparation of national and regional maritime action plans, the provision of technical advice, and facilitation of other technical cooperation activities. The Adviser prepared a comprehensive package of model maritime legislation and technical implementing regulations for the Caribbean and organized nine regional training events, with over 300 participants, on various aspects of maritime safety, marine environment protection, and facilitation of maritime traffic.

59. The IMO Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre continued to support all island nations and continental countries of the wider Caribbean on marine environment protection. The Centre works closely with the IMO Regional Maritime Adviser in the implementation of the IMO regulatory mandate on maritime safety, prevention and control of marine pollution from ships, maritime legislation and maritime and port facilitation. It advises on the development of marine environment legislation, the establishment and upgrading of marine pollution prevention and control capacities, on contingency planning, training of response personnel, promotion of sectoral and regional cooperation for marine environment protection.

60. After 11 September 2001, IMO began an urgent review of all its instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of illicit acts, including terrorism that may affect the safety and security of shipping and port

operations. The review will culminate in the holding of a Maritime Security Conference in December 2002, which will adopt mandatory requirements relating to the prevention and suppression of all such acts, including security assessments for certain types of ships and port facilities, the designation of security officers on board and ashore, the training of such officers and the installation of security equipment on board designated ships. In parallel, IMO launched a global programme of technical cooperation on maritime and port security aimed at assisting developing countries to develop appropriate security measures and infrastructure. It is essentially a capacity-building programme seeking to raise maritime security awareness, assisting in the implementation of existing IMO security instruments, and preparing States to implement effectively the new regulatory regime that is expected to emerge from the Conference. IMO prepared a model training workshop and intends to hold the Caribbean training in 2003.

61. In 2002-2003, IMO will be involved in additional training activities in the region. A course for new ship inspectors will be held to ensure the effective implementation of the "Caribbean memorandum of understanding on port State control". Four regional workshops for senior maritime administrators and existing ship inspectors will update them on regulatory developments at IMO. A regional seminar on maritime search and rescue operations is planned. IMO will assist in the preparation and revision of national contingency plans for Barbados, Belize, Grenada and Suriname. A regional course for on-scene commanders during marine pollution emergencies and two regional workshops for instructors on marine pollution response are envisaged. IMO also plans to hold a regional course on environmental sensitivity mapping, and to prepare a regional study on oil pollution risk assessment and management, to be followed by a regional workshop and a pilot project in Belize.

P. World Intellectual Property Organization

62. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) supports and enhances the national intellectual property capacities of Caribbean countries through its Cooperation for Development Programme. In the period under review, the WIPO strategy was geared towards the consolidation of intellectual property dimensions from law and information technology aspects to ministerial level recommendations. Programming missions identified specific local needs, taking into account cultural, social and economic indicators and specific commercial, investment and trade interests of each country. Consultations with government authorities were undertaken to define long-term goals and cost-effective activities for the creation of indigenous capacities to meet current and future challenges in the field of intellectual property, at the national and regional level.

63. WIPO assisted Caribbean countries in the field of industrial property and in the copyright and related rights field by strengthening national policies and legal frameworks through advisory services on the modernization of laws, including legal drafting to ensure compliance with treaty obligations, and by contributing to institution building through the formulation of cooperation programmes, designed with national authorities, to improve the administration and use of intellectual property to serve national interests. WIPO strengthened the performance of intellectual property systems through the enforcement of intellectual property rights. It promoted cooperation among OECS and CARICOM members, particularly in the collective management of copyright and related rights.

64. WIPO invited Caribbean officials to training courses, seminars, workshops and other activities organized by the WIPO Worldwide Academy and its Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. It organized information meetings and consultations for policy-level government officials, negotiators and senior enterprise managers on topical issues, including electronic commerce and intellectual property, and developed a Regional System for Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights with special emphasis on strengthening national capacity-building for the establishment of collective management societies where they do not exist, taking into account their needs in terms of organization, automation, human resources development, information and public education.

Q. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

65. Following the second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and

CARICOM and its associated institutions, held in Nassau in March 2000, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) carried out negotiations with CARICOM on a relationship agreement, specifying several concrete fields of technical cooperation in the Caribbean. The agreement is ready for signing by the executive heads of CARICOM and UNIDO at the next possible opportunity. Under its provisions, both organizations strengthen their cooperation in environmental and water management and cleaner technology, possibly leading to the establishment of a regional and/or national cleaner production centres. Discussions between UNIDO and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute advanced on the establishment of a regional environmental management centre for the Eastern Caribbean, if special-purpose donor contributions or trust fund arrangements can be identified for its financing.